

Bury Children's Strategic Partnership Board

Engagement, Participation and Co-Production Strategy

1. Introduction

Children and young people and their families in Bury have a right to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

The aim of the Bury Children's Strategic Partnership Board is to develop a culture and associated activity across all partner organisations whereby:

Children, young people and families have the opportunity to be fully engaged and are valued as equal partners in the design, development and review of the services that they use.

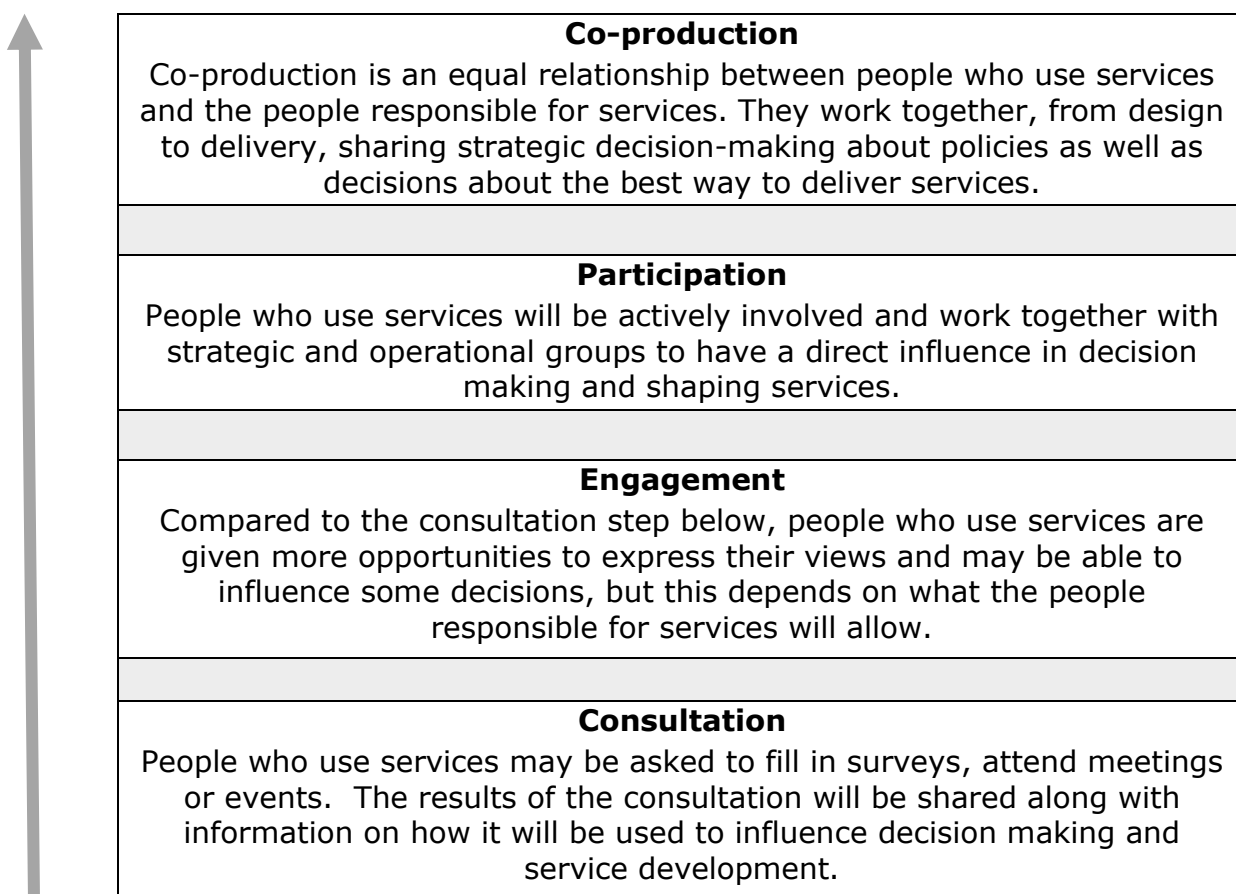
This strategy provides a framework that explains why this is critical and the benefits it brings to all stakeholders when we bring together our experiences.

It outlines how children, young people and parents/carers can participate at all levels from consultation through to co-production to ensure that services meet their needs and good outcomes are achieved.

This is a working document and will change and develop as our understanding and practices around engagement, participation and co-production with children, young people and parents/carers develop.

2. What do we mean by Engagement, Participation and Co-Production?

In order to ensure a common language and understanding of the levels of engagement, from consultation through to co-production, we are adopting the descriptors set out in the SEND Co-Production Strategy. These were adapted from 'Think Local Act Personal, National Co-production Advisory Group 2018.



3. The Bury approach

The Children's Strategic Partnership Board recognises that the contributions of children, young people are valuable and that by listening to them organisations can improve the services they deliver.

Children and young people in Bury have told us that for them this means they are:

- Are consulted, listened to and have their wishes taken into account;
- develop their skills as active citizens;
- have increased confidence and self-esteem;
- are able to influence the development of new and existing services.

their families:

- participate in democratic processes and opportunities;
- recognise that children and young people should be informed and consulted about issues that concern them;
- are able to access information and advice;
- work in partnership when they require additional support

their community:

- welcome the active citizenship of children and young people;
- involves people of all ages in community activity;
- is interested in what children and young people have to say;
- works with children and young people in order to realise their full potential.

their services

- are effective and valued with better outcomes for children and young people
- are based on actual, rather than assumed needs
- enable innovation in the planning and delivery of more effective services
- have credibility with children, young people and families

The Bury 2030 Strategy 'Let's Do It' has a collective aim to put people and their communities at the heart of what we do, with people having a voice and able to influence the way that services are delivered. We all, therefore, have a responsibility to ensure that this applies to children and young people and their families.

Across Bury there are lots of examples of good practice whereby the involvement of children, young people and families has resulted in responsive, needs-led services that are valued and supported by the families that use them. This is particularly the case in the voluntary and community sector where services are often 'grass-root' developed by and in response to the needs of local communities and with them fully involved in the delivery of the service. This is seen both in communities of place and of interest.

The Children's Strategic Partnership Board aims to drive forward a step-change towards co-production in Bury whereby it is the norm for children, young people and their parents/carers to be equal partners in all aspects of services from design to delivery, sharing strategic decision-making about policies as well as decisions about the best way to deliver services.

To support this change, we can draw on principles and guidance set by the Bury People Powered Network, which is a key element of Let's Do It, the Bury 2030 Strategy:

Inspiration – We are proactive and creative, building on our collective strengths to make a difference to what matters most to us by:

- Really listening to understand each other and our shared potential
- Growing relationships & new connections across boundaries
- Being open to trying new things and doing things differently
- Valuing the skills, strengths and successes of individuals and communities

Aspiration – We realise hopes and dreams by:

- Demonstrating pride in our collective and individual achievements and in the place where we live
- Ensuring everyone has an equal voice and equal life chances by harnessing and nurturing all talents
- Championing innovation, always looking for ways to improve quality of life for all
- Being courageous and stepping out of our comfort zone to help ourselves and others
- Opening doors at every opportunity

Participation – We all take responsibility for making a difference by:

- Committing to making a positive, practical difference in addressing and tackling our challenges
- Asking ‘what matters to you?’ and ‘How can I help?’
- Being flexible and putting our energies where we can make the most positive difference
- Demonstrating dignity, kindness and respect in everything we do

Collaboration - We will bring our collective talents, energies and power together for the greater good by:

- Bringing people together from all corners of life
- Listening and learning from all voices
- Trusting and helping each other, always working together
- Listening when others talk and then responding, helping and enabling
- Supporting development and growth and removing barriers to collaboration

4. Strategic Objectives

Across the Children’s Partnership there is a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations that work in different ways and are at different stages in the ‘journey’ to co-production. This Strategy sets strategic objectives to help services to move forward and for children, young people and families to be actively engaged. These are:

- To develop and embed a culture of active participation, engagement and co-production with children, young people and their families across the Children’s Partnership.
- To work with children, young people and families to co-produce a Promise setting out engagement, participation and co-production expectations of all partner organisations
- To value and encourage the unique skills, talents, knowledge, personal experience and interests of children, young people and families to improve their own and others’ lives.
- To ensure that children, young people and their parents/carers are able to be fully involved as partners in the development of services, policies and plans that affect them.
- To ensure all staff working with children, young people and families have the necessary skills to engage with and listen to children, young people and their families using methods designed to best suit the individuals concerned.
- To ensure that we work together to share and develop good practice and to avoid unnecessary duplication and inappropriate consultation with children, young people and families.
- To align to Let’s Do It and other partner strategies

5. Governance

Whilst accountability for this Strategy sits with the Children's Strategic Partnership Board, we all have a responsibility for ensuring its success.

The Children's Strategic Partnership Board has established a multi-agency Engagement, Participation & Co-Production sub group to support this work. This Strategy will be underpinned by an action plan developed by the Engagement, Participation & Co-Production sub group and taken forward through the sub groups of the Children's Strategic Partnership Board and the wider Children's Partnership Network.

The Board will monitor progress through regular progress reports and the development of performance indicators and an evidence base aligned to the Promise.

The Children's Strategic Partnership Board will also consider the resources needed to support children and young people and parent/carers in effective co-production.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Examples of Good Practice in Bury

- this section will be reviewed and updated with further examples

BURY COUNCIL

Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament

- Youth Cabinet is well attended by young people from across the borough supported by a range of organisations and services.
- Youth Cabinet meets weekly as an action group and 6 times a year with politicians as a formal cabinet.
- Officers and lead members meet with young people at Youth Cabinet to discuss issues raised.
- Issues raised at Bury's Youth Cabinet are reported to relevant officers who then action and feedback. Reports from Youth Cabinet will be submitted to the Children's Strategic Partnership Board. Issues discussed by the Board will then be taken back to Youth Cabinet via the Children's Strategic Partnership Board Development Officer as well as being built into wider consultation opportunities.
- The biennial United Kingdom Youth Parliament election has a turnout rate that puts us in the top 10 in the country. Young people from Bury regularly attend the regional youth forum, Youthforia to ensure that local issues are addressed at regional and national levels too.
- Since the pandemic began, Youth Cabinet has continued to meet using Microsoft Teams.
- Environmental Conference run virtually 2021

Circles of Influence

- Circles of Influence is a well-established annual conference where young people from across Bury meet with decision makers and share ideas for future change. Bury has held events of this nature since 2007 for secondary and primary aged pupils. The information gathered at these conferences is used in service development across the strategic partnership. One example is that young people highlighted the need for an environmentally focussed agenda so a Youth Climate Group was established and a schools environment conference has taken place to further this work.
- Circles of Influence 2021 is being run virtually

Children and young people in care

- Bury Council Children, Young People & Culture has invested in Total Respect Training which gives professionals the opportunity to receive youth participation training directly from care experienced young people.
- Bury Council has created a number of apprenticeships for care experienced young people in Bury and continues to evaluate and develop future opportunities.
- The involvement of children and young people in care is well established both with regard to young people's involvement in their individual reviews and care plans as well as the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care

Leaver's Forum. Representatives from the CiCC attend the Corporate Parenting Board and Youth Cabinet.

- The CiCC and Care Leaver's Forum were seeing record numbers of attendees prior to the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the first lockdown these forums have continued to meet in a virtual sense, constantly evolving to meet young people's needs.
- Ofsted state that 'Outcomes for children and young people in care in making a positive contribution are good. A clear strategic approach and commitment ensures that children and young people in care have a strong voice in decision making and that their needs are met. Children and young people have regular access to senior officers and elected members and they feel that their views are heard.'

Children and young people with disabilities

- The SEND Engagement & Co-Production Strategy 2019 included the development of a Charter setting out what children, young people and parents/carers can expect from Bury in asking and listening to their views on their needs and involving them in decisions either affecting them individually or collectively at an area or service level. It was developed through talking to children, young people and parents/carers but also to reflect that this is a two-way relationship, and children, young people and parents/carers would adopt a similar reciprocal approach in their working relationships with Bury. The Charter is the basis for the SEND Engagement & Co-Production Strategy.
- The involvement of parents, carers and disabled children and young people is well established in a range of services and organisations.
- The council has recruited a SEND ambassador to further the engagement of children and young people with disabilities.
- **Voices – information to be added**

Children and young people not accessing formal services

- The council has an ongoing commitment to engaging with communities in a variety of ways. Young people are engaging with youth workers who are out on detached sessions in local areas. Young people in the Chesham area are sharing their views with youth workers about what investment in the area should be used for. Youth workers are going to planning meetings to share young people's views and are then going back to young people with information from the meetings. Partners involved in the planning will also go out with youth workers on detached to speak directly with young people in the area.

Recruitment and Selection toolkit

- Children's Services have developed a toolkit for involving children and young people in the recruitment and selection of staff. This toolkit is available to all partners.

HEALTH

- The involvement of young people in the development and service redesign of Sexual Health Services and YPAS is well established. Young people from the Youth Cabinet were consulted, along with service users, to determine

what an integrated Sexual Health Service should look like and a full rebranding exercise.

- Young teenage parents were involved in the development of the Family Nurse Partnership Project and took part in the interview process and scoring of candidates.
- Children, young people and their parents have contributed to the development of Bury CAMHS redesign and were consulted with to establish their views on what they wanted from a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). CAMHS has an identified participation champion and an agreed timetable of forthcoming events linked to a wider Pennine Care Participation strategy.
- Bury CAMHS continues to involve young people in the recruitment of new staff using both existing and previous service users in partnership with third sector providers.

EDUCATION

School Councils

- The majority of primary and all secondary schools have a well-established school council that meets regularly. These aim to ensure that school pupils are able to influence school decision making.
- The local authority Participation Team support the training and development of school councils across Bury.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

HOUSING

POLICE

Appendix 2:

Legislation Context

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

There are four articles in the convention that are seen as special. They're known as the "General Principles" and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (article 2);
2. Best interest of the child (article 3);
3. Right to life survival and development (article 6);
4. Right to be heard (article 12).

Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 makes it clear that local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the Act in relation to children and young people with SEND **must** have regard to:

- The views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and the child's parents/carers;
- The importance of the child or young person, and the child's parents/carers, participating as fully as possible in decisions;
- Ensuring that children, young people and parents/carers are provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in decisions;
- The need to support the child or young person, and the child's parents/carers, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

The Act seeks to ensure that Local Authorities, in carrying out their function under the Act, must have regard to:

- Ensuring that children, young people and parents/carers are involved in decisions about local provision, including the design or commissioning of services to meet local need;
- Making use of existing organisations and forums which represent the views of parents/carers such as the Parent Carer Forum and developing a forum for children and young people where these do not exist.

Appendix 3

Co-production – lessons from research

National Co-Production Advisory Group

“When co-production works best, people who use services and carers are valued by organisations **as equal partners**, can share power and have influence over decisions made”. (National Co-production Advisory Group 2018).

Co-production can be broken down into the following:

- Co-design, including planning of services
- Co-decision making in the allocation of resources
- Co-delivery of services, including the role of volunteers in providing the service
- Co-evaluation of the service

Social Care Institute for Excellence

The Social Care Institute for excellence recommends using the principles of equality, diversity, accessibility and reciprocity for putting co-production into action. These are core values that will underpin our developments with children, young people and families in Bury:

Equality – everyone has assets

Co-production starts from the idea that no one group or person is more important than anyone else and everyone has skills, abilities and time to contribute.

Diversity

Co-production should be as inclusive and diverse as possible. Particular efforts may be needed to ensure that seldom heard groups are included.

Accessibility

Making everything accessible is the way to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate fully in an activity in the way that suits them best.

Reciprocity

This means people get something back for putting something in. There are formal ways of doing this, but sometimes the reciprocity comes from the more equal relationships that develop between people and organisations.

Meeting of Minds – how Co-production benefits people, professionals and organisations – Report by the Community Fund, September 2019:

Whilst many of the benefits are the same as those seen when involving people in any form of decision making, for co-production the benefits are magnified and strengthened as everyone in the process is an equal partner

For individuals

CSPB Engagement, Participation & Co-Production Strategy : Approved by CSPB 13-4-21:

For more information , e-mail: ChildrensPartnership@bury.gov.uk

- Feeling valued and empowered
- Improved confidence and a sense of purpose
- Supporting outcomes like employability and wellbeing
- Social connections and peers support

For professionals

- Better understanding of lives and experiences of people they support
- Greater job satisfaction
- A chance to think differently and question established practice

For improved services

- More authentic, credible and human services
- More engaging, appealing, accessible services and products
- More responsive, relevant and useful service offer
- Ownership among users means they champion the services

Influencing beyond the programme

- Giving practitioners and services a more user-focused approach through training and support
- Co-production adopted more widely, inspired by the partnerships
- Better designed, more informed and compassionate local practice and policy
- National and international interest